Implementation of community information project

2200. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the State Government of Kerala is implementing a community information project namely 'Akshaya' providing the services as envisaged in the CIC Scheme of Government;

(b) whether Government of Kerala sought the sanction for including this 'Akshaya' project under the CIC Scheme; and

(c) whether Government will consider to include the above project under the CIC Scheme and extend the benefit of this scheme for the State project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Equipments for projects under DTH

2201. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan and All India Radio have installed equipment worth Rs. 143 crores for 34 projects under the DTH but are unable to utilize it due to lack of trained manpower;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that five Doordarshan studios and 9 low power transmitters are technically ready but due to non-sanctioning of the staff, they cannot be commissioned; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Standing Committee on Information Technology has also made similar comments about ineffective tackling of the manpower problems in Prasar Bharati during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. Doordarshan's Ku band

(Free-to-Air DTH) transmission service 'DD Direct Plus' was approved with a capital cost of Rs. 53.80 crore (Works - Rs. 2.80 cr, Equipment - Rs. 51.00 cr.) Out of which till now Rs. 19.26 crore have been incurred on this project. Its bouquet comprising thirty-three TV and twelve Radio channels has been made fully operational since its launch on 16th Dec. 2004 with the existing trained manpower.

(b) and (c) Standing Committee on Information Technology (2004-05), in its 18th report on Demands for Grants (2005-06), had observed that 14 Doordarshan projects were not being put to use on account of shortage of manpower. Out of these 14 projects (5 Studios and 9 LPTs), 11 projects (3 Studios and 8 LPTs) have since been commissioned by deployment of limited staff drawn from other Doordarshan Kendras.

Broadcasting of programmes by FM stations

2202. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the programmes broadcast by FM stations in the country;

(b) if so, whether they conform to the mandate given to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that these stations are not permitted to broadcast local or regional bulletins; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) All India Radio broadcasts news and current affairs programmes on its FM Channels, Private FM Stations, as per Phase-I and Phase-II policy guidelines, are not permitted to broadcast News and Current Affairs programmes.

Insurance scheme for journalists

2203. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide insurance scheme for journalists;